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Can Text Messages Sway More Black Parents to Vaccinate Teens for HPV? Rutgers Gets $600k Grant to Find Out

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is funding research at Rutgers University in an effort to increase the uptake of the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine among Black adolescents. Illustration by Lisa Cyr

Who's the author? Bobbie Is the Defender's Top Dawg of Health. **It's free.**

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is funding research at Rutgers University in an effort to increase the uptake of the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine among Black adolescents. Illustration by Lisa Cyr

The project hypothesizes that follow-up text messages will increase vaccine confidence and motivate Black parents to vaccinate their children.

Further, when also a [is investigation on a Black grant to study](#) COVID-19 and [vaccine hesitancy among Black parents](#), Rutgers University has been awarded a grant of $600,000 by the National Institutes of Health's Research Enhancement program, which helps develop skills for early career researchers.

The approved [grant proposal](#) obtained by HBCU notes that the study is a response to the Biden administration's Cancer Moonshot program that seeks to reduce cancer rates by 50% by 2047.

Black [COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy](#) has dropped the HPV vaccine technology, which [is the vaccine uptake among "vaccine hesitancy"](#) and [how "low confidence in vaccine](#) [safety" is the biggest factor](#) in vaccine hesitancy, [underscoring the need for](#) [understanding that some people reject the vaccine on the basis of informed](#) decision-making.

According to Kotlen's proposal, Black families that may not be responsive to the announcement approach alone are instead responsive to supplementary forms of communication, including text messages, which can provide them with further interventions that follow preventive recommendations after the visit.

The grant implements a pilot study to develop text messages tailored to overcome "vaccine hesitancy" among Black families and aims to create a new intervention that can later be tested in a larger, definitive clinical trial.

Researchers will draft a series of sample messages based on common concerns found to be held by Black "vaccine hesitant" parents. Through focus groups with parents, researchers will identify the best-performing messages.

Parents will receive $50 for participating in the focus groups.

Next, researchers will conduct a randomized controlled trial comparing the effectiveness of messages for Black against the underserved area, comparing [experiences through using the text messages with those who](#) [uncompared to].

Follow-up interviews with parents will inform researchers' understanding of which messages and supplemental resources are most effective, and most appropriate, to send and when.

The approach, like the announcement approach, is based on the [Precaution Adoption Process Model](#), a psychological approach to increasing the likelihood that focuses on developing strategies for changing people's thoughts and feelings to get them to take more vaccines.

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Six proof HPV vaccines prevent cervical cancer

Kotlen's proposal cites [CDC data](#) showing Black women have the highest incidence of cervical cancer, at 9.2 per 100,000, and higher incidence and higher rates of cervical cancer than white women.

Experts told the Defender there's no proof that HPV vaccines reduce the risk of cervical cancer.

Studying [HPV vaccine efficacy](#) for eliminating cervical cancer is challenging. But [the vaccine's efficacy](#) in preventing HPV infection is well-established, and [the vaccine's safety](#) has been established through decades of research and the complex relationship between HPV infection and cervical cancer.

Vaccinated women, believing they are protected, may also engage in riskier behavior and therefore worsen the risk of cervical cancer.

According [to John Lyons-Weiler, Ph.D.](#), president and CEO of the Institute for Pure and Applied Knowledge, claiming the vaccine reduces cervical cancer are misleading for a number of reasons.

For example, some research has shown that because the HPV vaccine targets [only nine strains of HPV](#), it may actually increase the incidence of cervical cancer by replacing the less virulent types by nonvaccine types.

Lyons also pointed to other research, published in the Journal of the Royal Society of Medicine, showing that Phase 3 and Phase 4 efficacy trials have been rife with methodological problems that undermine efficacy claims.

That research also points out that none of the trials were designed to detect the vaccine's effectiveness against cervical cancer. And most trials tested HPV vaccines against a placebo made other than children ages 9-15 years old, which is typically offered.

Research shows that in all countries that performed smear screening, the pre-vaccination period from 1985 to 2007 saw dramatic declines in the incidence of and [cervical cancer](#). And since vaccination began, that trend has reversed.

Also, despite Merck's marketing of the HPV vaccine as "safe and effective," many people have experienced [serious side effects](#), including [Guillain-Barré syndrome](#), [complex regional pain syndrome](#), [anaphylaxis](#), [postural orthostatic tachycardia syndrome](#), and [premature ovarian failure](#).

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Brenda Baletti, Ph.D.

Brenda Baletti Ph.D. is a reporter for The Defender. She wrote and taught about capitalism and politics for 10 years in the writing program at Duke University. She holds a Ph.D. in literature from the University of California, Santa Cruz, and lives in Durham, North Carolina.

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Anybody have people on their research list? They remember what happened with the swine flu?

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I remember! I'll think that among unvaxxed.

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Hanne Koplev
11 hours ago

Just read MERCK´s own documentation about side effects.
2,3 % of healthy young girls develop serious autoimmune effects after vaccination. Tabel 9.
https://www.merck.com/produ...

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Molly Pitcher
a day ago

What the H is this from illegals or another Xovid complication, or 1 they can use to enforce more masks/lockdowns?

Five deaths in Virginia connected to statewide meningococcal disease outbreak

Five people have died from complications of a “rare but serious illness” in Virginia following a statewide outbreak of meningococcal disease, the Virginia Department of Health announced.

Twenty-seven cases of the disease, caused by the bacteria Neisseria meningitidis type Y, have been reported in eastern, central, and southwest Virginia since June 2022, according to the department.

Most case-patients are Black or African American adults between 30 to 60 years of age, according to the Virginia Health Department. Only one person was vaccinated for Neisseria meningitidis type Y out of the 27 reported cases.
https://www.cnn.com/2023/09...

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SuziAlkamyst
a day ago

The more poisoned the population, the more profitable it is to the drug industry...the sicker everyone is the more medicine they will need...poorly tested drugs with nasty side effects (and I know what I'm talking about, my family has suffered!) causing more illness for which one will need more medicine...A wonderfully lucrative merry-go-round.

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Mel R ↗ SuziAlkamyst
20 hours ago edited

The newly released book "Vax-Unvax" is a crucial resource on comparing the vaccinated to those who refrained from getting the shots. Most of the studies are on the "traditional" (childhood, flu)injections, but there are some with the recent C19 variety. The pharmaceutical corporations have closed the loop with their cause/remedy tactic that
many follow.

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